



KENTUCKY

LONG-TERM POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

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Memorandum

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Michael T. Childress

To: Interested Citizens
From: Michael Childress
Date: June 1, 2010
Re: Closing of the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center

During the 2010 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, the legislature voted to suspend funding of the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center. Consequently, the Center will be shutting its doors on June 30, 2010, ending nearly 18 years of grateful service to the Commonwealth.

Since 1992, this Center has worked to fulfill the mission given to us by the Kentucky General Assembly:

. . . to serve as a catalyst to change the way decisions are made in government by providing decisionmakers a broader context in which to make decisions, taking into consideration the long-term implications of policy and critical trends and emerging issues which are likely to have a significant impact on the state . . .

To that end, we have conducted research and published reports, articles, and briefs on topics ranging from aging and broadband access to technology adaptation and workforce development. We have tracked the rise of the Internet and the decline of burley tobacco. In every effort, we have diligently sought to enlighten the public and policymakers through our research and thus enable the constructive change needed to build a stronger, more prosperous state.

Though we will be gone, our work will remain, and experience has shown that good research has value that endures and enables change for many years, if not decades beyond the time of its development. To ensure continued access to the Center's work, we have taken steps to make our publications available on the Web at www.kltprc.info for policymakers, educators, and citizens who are interested in the trends and issues affecting Kentucky's future, as well as the fundamental changes our Center has tracked.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Center's staff, I thank you for your interest in our work and wish you every success in the work that you do. Because the need to study and plan for the future is no less important now than it was in 1992, I also encourage you to embrace the inevitable changes we will confront in the years to come while remaining mindful of the unique circumstances that define our past.